

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-0910V

(not to be published)

ADRIANA LOPEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: August 6, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Attorney's Fees and Costs

Michael G. McLaren, Black McLaren Jones Ryland & Griffie, P.C., Memphis, TN, for Petitioner.

Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS¹

On June 21, 2019, Adriana Lopez filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the "Vaccine Act"). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration as a result of receiving a hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine on July 1, 2016. (Petition at 1). On January 26, 2021, a decision was issued awarding compensation to Petitioner based on the parties' stipulation. (ECF No. 40).

Petitioner has now filed a motion for attorney's fees and costs, dated July 20, 2021 (ECF No. 51), requesting an award of \$46,547.45 (representing \$44,321.80 in fees and \$2,225.65 in costs). Petitioner also requests the amount of \$17,099.71 in attorney's fees

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

and costs for incurred by prior counsel, Conway, Homer, P.C. (ECF No. 51-4). In accordance with General Order No. 9, Petitioner filed a signed statement indicating that she incurred no out-of-pocket expenses. (ECF No. 51-3). Respondent did not file a response.

I have reviewed the billing records submitted with Petitioner's request. In my experience, the request appears reasonable, and I find no cause to reduce the requested hours or rates.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Section 15(e). Accordingly, I hereby GRANT Petitioner's Motion for attorney's fees and costs as follows:

- **A lump sum of \$46,547.45, representing reimbursement for attorneys' fees and costs, in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and Petitioner's counsel; and**
- **A lump sum of \$17,099.71, representing reimbursement for attorneys' fees and costs, in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and Conway, Homer, P.C.**

In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review (see Appendix B to the Rules of the Court), the Clerk shall enter judgment in accordance with this decision.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice renouncing their right to seek review.